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# stephen a. forbes

STATE PARK

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## THE PARK

Stephen A. Forbes State Park is 14 miles northeast of Salem in southern Illinois. The park is named in honor of Stephen A. Forbes, a gifted Illinois scientist who lived in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Boston Lake, a two-acre pond with a rustic lodge now used as the ranger's office, is the nucleus of the park. The lake was purchased from Farina businessman Gail Boston. The acquisition of 20 acres in 1959 formed the basis of the park. Acquisitions since then have boosted the total acreage to 3,019. The park opened to the public in 1964.

## THE LAKE

A site near Omega was chosen for the construction of a 585-acre lake built in 1963. It has a maximum depth of 28 feet and 48 miles of shoreline. In 1966 roads were extended and firebreaks constructed through the undeveloped areas of the north side of the lake to furnish access to the multiple-use areas established for hunters.

In 1966 a new building, especially designed for use as a Fisheries Research Center by the Illinois Natural History Survey, was completed below the dam. Facilities in this center include an air-conditioned laboratory, residence and garage, accommodations for graduate students and 14 drainable ponds for a variety of aquatic biology and fisheries experiments. The lab is open to visitors five days each week.

## NAME HONORS SCIENTIST

The Stephen A. Forbes State Park honors a man familiar to many Illinoisans. Stephen Alfred Forbes was Curator of the Museum of the State Natural History Society (1872-77), Director of the State Laboratory of Natural History (1877-1917), State Entomologist (1882-1917), Professor of Zoology and Entomology (1884-1909), Dean of the College of Science (1888-1905) at the University of Illinois and Chief of the State Natural History Survey (1917-30), contributing greatly to the scientific world without losing sight of his responsibility to the general welfare of the people of Illinois.

He was accomplished in several fields of biology: ornithology, entomology, ichthyology, aquatic biology and ecology. Few men have proven so eminently able in so many specialties. He authored many scientific publications, began publishing in 1870 and continued writing until his death in 1930, publishing over 400 titles. He was a gifted writer and his papers display a simplicity, conciseness and clarity not often seen in scientific treatises.

## FACILITIES

**Picnicking:** Wamac Hill, Black Oak, Sassafras, Lakeview, Rocky Point, Lookout Point, Stage Coach Trail and White Oak picnic areas are convenient to parking. Running water from hydrants, picnic tables and park stoves are available. There are also outside pit toilets.

**Fishing:** The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, bullhead, channel catfish, carp and white bass to challenge the fisherman's skill.

**Boating:** The docks will accommodate over 100 boats. Boat rentals are available. Outboard motors of unlimited size may be used from June 16 to September 14 in authorized areas with water skiing allowed during this period. The rest of the year, there is a 10 HP limit on outboard motors. Swimming is not permitted. A refreshment stand near the boat docks is operated during the warm summer months.

**Camping:** There are two camping areas with vehicular access. A group camping area is also available; groups of over 25 persons must have advance permission to enter the park. All campers need a permit from the park staff.

**Trails:** There is an established nature trail to three-acre Marlow Pond and many other areas suitable for hiking. Going to the east side of the lake, the visitor may see one of the few remaining stands of Indian grass in the state.

**Hunting:** Field dog trials have long been popular in the hunting areas. Squirrel, dove, woodcock, quail and rabbit are hunted in season. There is no waterfowl hunting. Consult the park ranger for information concerning shooting time and opening dates for various game. There is a check station where all hunters, except squirrel hunters, must check in, and all hunters including squirrel hunters must check out.

**Airstrip:** A well kept 2,500-feet sod runway provides landing facilities for small aircraft.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details, contact Ranger, RR 1, Kinmundy, 62854, phone 618/547-3381. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Section, State Office building, Springfield, 62706.

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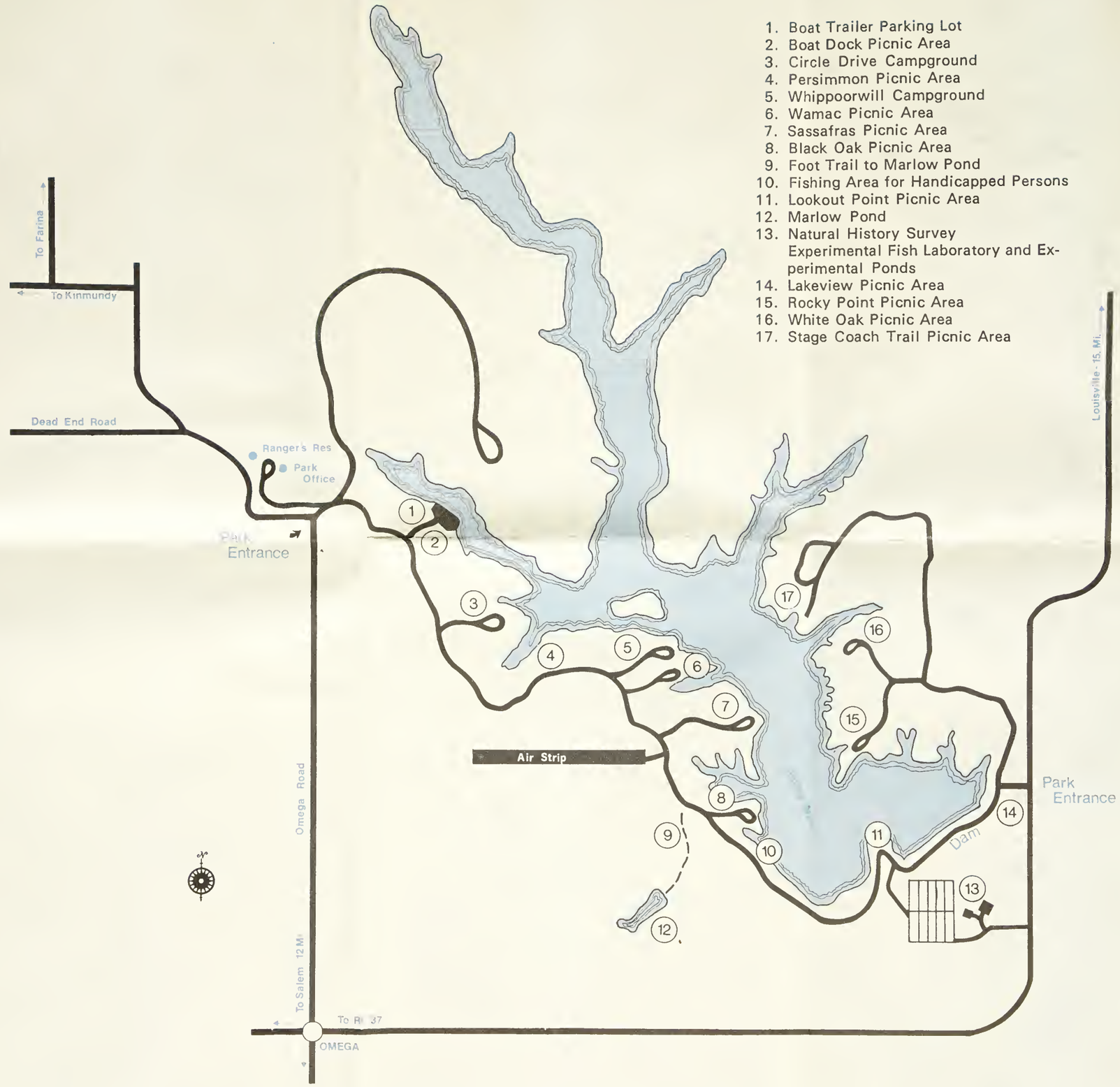

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